

"PRESERVING A DUXBURY HERITAGE"

By Wm. Lord McKinney, Curator Duxbury Rural & Historical Society

(This is the third in a series of five articles to appear in the Clipper preliminary to the campaign of PRESERVING OUR DUXBURY HERITAGE. -- Ed.)

Foremost among the art treasures on exhibition at the Historical Rooms are two marine masterpieces by the French artist, Antoine Roux. Recently art critics from Boston have questioned the right of Duxbury folk to limit public appreciation to our summer visitors, when the work of the French master would call forth much greater appreciation and interest by students of art and the public attending larger city museums.

In this reproduction the Argus with Joseph Drew, master, is seen entering the port of Marseilles as of January 1823. The Argus of 128 tons was built in Duxbury in the Bluefish River shipyard in 1820 and Reuben Drew was the master builder and owner.

The companion canvas by Antoine Roux pictures the Argus, commanded by C. Gilpatrick, in a severe gale, with masts cut away, outside the harbor of Marseilles July 19, 1824.

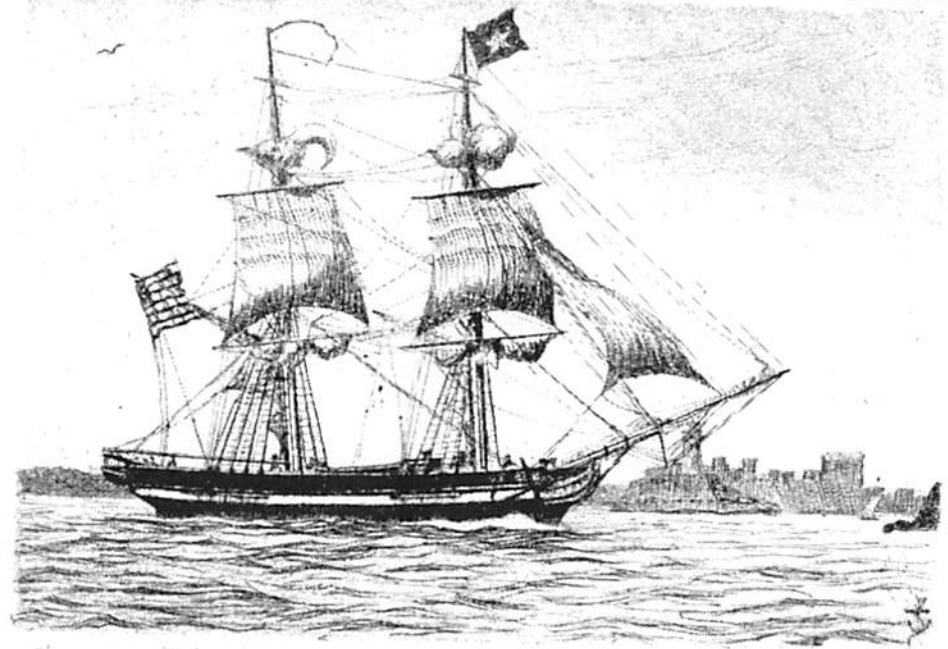
The wintry scene of the last century, with an unequally yoked and strange team, was afront what is now the residence of our fellow townsman Garvin Bawden. The driver was Samuel Hall of Cove St. He was the uncle of Miss Lura Oakes Cushman, and his father, George Harvey Hall, the grandfather of Miss Cushman whom we honor as the giver of the land to the U.S. for the building of the Gurnet Light. The Bawden residence was earlier the home of the noted mariner, Captain Briggs Thomas, who was the first commander of the ship Mattakeesett, 481 tons, built by Ezra Weston in 1833. It is described as length 132 feet, beam 28 feet, having two decks, three masts, no galleries, square stern and an artistic figurehead. Samuel Hall was its master carpenter.

We should mention the young boy aside the driver on the sled with Samuel Hall, because here, too, is a nautical association. He was Howard Green, and his father, George A. Green, was chairman of the committee to erect the "Liberty Pole" or shipmast in front of our present Rural & Historical Society. Atop the pole was a ship model serving as a weather vane and it was often then said that the compass letters E.W.N.S. stood for Ezra Weston's New Ships. Years later when a gale tossed the top decoration to the ground, it was finally presented to the Historical Society where this ship-model vane may be seen.

FISHING INDUSTRY
Duxbury's fishing industry began with the 18th century and before its close some 60 vessels were fishing on the Grand Banks. The larger vessels were engaged in whale fishery. In 1712 six Duxbury fishermen were drowned in pursuit of whales.

Nathaniel and Joshua Winsor were most extensively engaged in the cod industry, having much trade even in foreign lands. Only cod was used in making salted fish, while the haddock was thought to be hardly fit for food. Quite a few stories illustrate their relative value.

In 1788 the minister of the Duxbury parish was the Rev. Zedekiah



THE ARGUS built in Duxbury in 1820.



Sanger. The congregation had noted that his eyes were troubling the parson, and when the church in Bridgewater extended him a call to be the assistant to the Rev. John Shaw, then nearing the retirement age, the church here did not object to his accepting the call, which strange to relate, embodied a condition which was to the effect that he was to continue to serve the church in Bridgewater just so long as he "could tell the difference between a cod and a haddock."

Perhaps I should add that Mr. Sanger became a noted educator. In Bridgewater he continued the Greek and Latin School made notable by his predecessor and organized the Bridgewater Academy which was the county academy of the time. Some years ago in Cambridge I noted on the walls of the Harvard Union his portrait hung next to one of Teddy Roosevelt. What Bridgewater gained would seem to be Duxbury's loss.

There are other tales of cod versus haddock. About the time of which we write a tired fisherman was trying to follow the involved reasoning in a lengthy sermon of the times and with one arm resting on the gallery rail he fell asleep, dreaming of pulling in a big fish; his motions disturbed nearby worshippers, who shook and wakened him as he called out in disgust, "it was only a haddock."

During the most profitable times in Duxbury's expanding shipping industry the timber used in building ships was plentiful nearby. In the early days the forests were near the shore and grew denser inland. Oak was used in parts requiring particular strength, although some vessels were made mostly of pitch pine. But oak was superior for floors, beams and decks. In those days primitive growth accounted for superiority. In Rockland, Maine, one reads of the primitive specimens believed to have covered the span of three centuries.

(In next week's Clipper I plan to tell something of the builder of ships, Ezra Weston, called "King Caesar.")

Saquish was once an island, or was built in 1803, but a 1774 map shows a crossing of some kind. don't you care? The bridge over Bluefish River

Kay DeLorenzo REALTOR

585-6693



SPACIOUS 4-bedroom home near the bay with deeded water rights. Has new pine cabinet kitchen with dishwasher, formal dining room, large living room with 1 bedroom on first floor. 3 large bedrooms, study and bath on second floor. Pine paneled recreation room, laundry and workshop in basement. Steam heat by oil. Screened porch, lovely outdoor play area. Priced at \$19,900. SPIC AND SPAN contemporary home with 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 ceramic tile baths, fireplaced living room, dining area. Exceptional birch cabinet kitchen with built-ins includes 2 ovens. Paneled recreation room, basement workshop and garage. Forced hot air heat. Combination windows. Very low operating cost. On a lovely landscaped acre. \$19,500.

ALTHO I have closed my Antique Shop at 52 Main St., Kingston, Mass, I am still interested in buying your antiques. Also, in estate appraisals and liquidation of same. Work will be done speedily, efficiently, with no publicity, and satisfaction guaranteed. Call 746-1507 or write to Richard Haire, 1 Winter St., Plymouth, Mass.

For Sale
on Standish Shore
5 BEDROOM CAPE WITH
DEEDED WATER RIGHTS
DONALD F. LORING, Builder
934-5085

Alden's Shoes
has
**LITTLE
YANKEE SHOES**
Hall's Corner So. Duxbury

ALDEN
Plumbing & Heating
Complete Plumbing
& Heating Service
Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling
New Homes
Larry Rooney-Dutchie Morini
Dick Marshall
Reg. Master License 7116
Reg. License 14110
934-2244 or 746-1113

At left is Sam Hall of Cove St. in front of the Capt. Briggs Thomas house on St. George St. (now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Garvin Bawden). The boy at right is Howard Green, brother of Ethel and Bessie Green of Cedar St.

As early as 1715 a road was laid out from Powder Point to the Plymouth road. It followed the approximate route of St. George St.



WALKER BROS. REALTORS

AUTHENTIC CAPE COD has 35' living room with fireplace and brockoven, study and parlor also have fireplaces; family dining room adjacent to kitchen; first floor bedroom and adjacent bath. Four bedrooms and 2 complete baths upstairs. Wide pine floor boards, panelling, early woodwork and other features preserved. FHA heat. Large flagstone porch has jalousied windows. New 2-car garage. Towering shade trees. \$43,000.

FOUR BEDROOMS: Cape style has large fireplaced living room, attractive kitchen, recreation room. FHA heat. Excellent condition. 2-car garage. Play area. Attractive grounds on nearly an acre.

CAPE COD: Cabinet kitchen, common room with open hearth and brick oven, study, den with fireplace, first floor bedroom and bath. Three double bedrooms and another bath up. FHA heat. Barn. Can be sub-divided to substantially reduce investment. Minute by car to churches, stores, or water. \$37,500.

EARLY AMERICAN: Excellent condition, spacious family room with fireplace and thermopane picture window, dining room, pleasant modern kitchen with dishwasher, living room, first floor lavatory. Four bedrooms and 2 tile baths upstairs; also second floor living room. Five fireplaces, wide pine floors. Colonial decor. Excellent location. Barn; 1 acre of land. No, you haven't seen this one, so call for an appointment! \$46,000.

DONALD D. WALKER 934-2500, 934-2445
CLARENCE W. WALKER 934-2500, 934-2600
Associate: BETTY HUTTON 934-5016